

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a conference call, comprising:
  - detecting a conference call event that was previously configured by a subscriber user;
  - identifying, without user intervention, participant users associated with the conference call event;
  - contacting the participant users;
  - receiving a response from the participant users; and
  - establishing a conference call between the participant users and the subscriber user based on the received responses.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting a conference call event includes:
  - scanning a data structure for the conference call event.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the data structure is a calendar application associated with the subscriber user.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the conference call event is a trigger indicating a proposed conference call previously scheduled by the user.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the proposed conference call identifies the participant users and identifying participant users includes:
  - collecting an identifier for the participant users from a first data structure corresponding to the conference call event; and
  - collecting contact information for the participant users from a second data structure based on the participant user identifiers.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the first data structure is a calendar application and the second data structure is an address book listing at least the participant users and their corresponding contact information.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein contacting the identified participant users includes:
  - collecting contact information associated with the participant users; and
  - establishing a communication connection with the participant users using the contact information.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the contact information comprises telephone numbers associated with the participant users and establishing a communication connection includes:
- dialing out to participant users using a respective telephone number.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein contacting the participant users includes calling the participant users using a telephone number and receiving a response from the participant users includes:
- for a participant user:
- providing an indication to the subscriber user reflecting whether the participant user answers the call.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein providing an indication includes:
- providing a no contact message to the subscriber user when the participant user does not answer the call.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further including:
- providing a no conference call message to the subscriber user when none of the participant users answer their respective call.
12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein providing an indication includes:

providing an acceptance message to the subscriber user when the  
participant user answers the call.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein providing the acceptance message  
includes:

determining whether the participant user accepts the call.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein determining whether the participant  
user accepts the call includes:

performing a feedback process when the participant user declines the call.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein performing a feedback process  
includes:

providing options for the participant user to decline the call, wherein the

options include at least one of:

allowing the participant user to record a message for subsequent play

back to the subscriber user,

declining the call without any further processing by the participant user;

allowing the participant user to set an alternate telephone number for

contacting the participant user, and

allowing the participant user to set a period of time in which the participant user is to be contacted again.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing a conference call includes:

establishing a communication connection between participant users and the subscriber user such that the subscriber user and the participant users may conduct a conference call.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

detecting when one of the participant users terminates its contact during the conference call;  
providing a termination message to the subscriber user indicating that the one participant user has ended participation in the conference call.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

recording audio information associated with the subscriber user and participant users' participation during the conference call;  
converting at least some of the audio information to text information; and  
recording the text information in a transcript reflecting a textual temporal based representation of communications that have taken place between the users during the conference call.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

storing a portion of the audio information that cannot be converted to text  
information as an audio file; and  
inserting a pointer to the audio file in the transcript.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

providing the transcript to the subscriber user.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein providing the transcript includes

attaching the transcript to an e-mail addressed to the subscriber user.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein contacting the participant users includes:

determining whether a participant user has a preferred device registered  
with a service center, and  
contacting a participant user through the preferred device when the  
participant user has a registered preferred device.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting and identifying steps are  
performed by a digital companion server that provides services to the subscriber  
user, and wherein contacting the participant users includes:

generating, by the digital companion server, a first message that includes  
at least instructions for configuring the conference call and  
telephone numbers for the participant users; and  
providing the first message to a conference blasting server.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein providing the first message includes:

generating a second message by the conference blasting server based on  
the first message, wherein the second message includes  
instructions for setting up the conference call and the telephone  
numbers; and  
providing the second message to a conference bridge.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein providing the second message  
includes:

calling, by the conference bridge, the participant users using the telephone  
numbers included in the second message.

26. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the subscriber user configures the  
conference call event by scheduling the conference call in a calendar application  
for a predetermined date and time and adding the names of the participant users  
that the subscriber user intends to participate in the conference call.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, comprising receiving input from the subscriber user to add the names of participant users from an address book to the calendar application, the input being received via a graphical user interface.

28. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

detecting when a first participant users was dropped from the conference call; and  
determining whether the first participant user has a preferred device registered with a service center.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein when the first participant user has a registered preferred device,

attempting to contact the first participant user through the preferred device.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

re-establishing the first user with the conference call based on a determination that the first user wishes to continue participation in the conference call.



31. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein when the first participant user does not have a registered preferred device,

determining contact information associated with a device used by the first participant user to participate in the conference call; and  
re-establishing the first user with the conference call using the contact information.

32. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

detecting when a first participant user has terminated participation in the conference call; and  
determining whether the first participant user voluntarily or involuntarily terminated participation in the conference call based on the type of device the first participant user was operating during participation in the conference call.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a conference call, the method performed by a server comprising:

detecting a conference call event previously configured by a subscriber user that indicates when a conference call should be established between the subscriber user and participant users;

identifying, without user intervention, the participant users associated with the conference call event;

collecting contact information for the participant users;  
providing a message including the contact information to a conference  
server that is configured to instruct a bridge to establish the  
conference call between the users by calling the participant users  
using the contact information included in the message; and  
receiving a response message from the conference server including  
information associated with the conference call and at least one  
participant user.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein detecting a conference call event  
includes:

scanning a calendar application to determine whether the subscriber user  
has scheduled a conference call.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34, further including:

determining the participant users from the calendar application;  
accessing an address book associated with the subscriber user for  
collecting the contact information for the participant users; and  
generating the message using the collected contact information.

36. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein providing a message includes:

generating the message using the collected contact information and  
instructions associated with a date for commencing the conference  
call, and  
using the message by the conference server to generate a second  
message for instructing the bridge to establish the conference call.

37. (Original) The method of claim 33, comprising providing the response message by  
the bridge when attempting to establish communications with the participant  
users over a voice network.

38. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the response message comprises at  
least one of:

information stating that at least one participant user is declining the call;

information stating that at least one participant user is not answering the  
call;

information stating that at least one participant user is accepting the call;

and

none of the participant users is answering the call.

39. (Currently Amended) A method for participating in a conference call automatically  
established by at least one or more communication entity, the method  
comprising:

scheduling a conference call at a predetermined time using a calendar

application, wherein scheduling includes identifying, without user

intervention, participant users that are to participate in the

conference call; and

at the predetermined time:

receiving an indication that a conference call has been configured in

accordance with the scheduled conference call,

receiving a indication that at least one participant user has either joined or

declined to join the conference call, and

during the conference call, receiving an indication that another participant

user has ended communications with the conference call when that

participant user terminates a connection with a bridge that

establishes the conference call in accordance with instructions

provided by a server that executes the calendar application.

40. (Original) A method for providing a conference call, comprising:

receiving a message from a first server including instructions for

establishing a conference call between participant users and a

subscriber user that previously scheduled the conference call with a

second server, wherein the second server automatically initiates

configuration of the conference call based on the subscriber user's

schedule by providing to the first server contact information for the

participant users and the message includes the contact information;

calling the participant users using the contact information included in the message;  
receiving a response from the participant users, wherein the response reflects whether the participant user has answered, accepted, not answered, or declined to accept the call; and  
establishing a conference call between the users based on the response received from the participant users.

41. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a conference call, comprising:

means for detecting a conference call event that was previously configured by a subscriber user;  
means for identifying, without user intervention, participant users associated with the conference call event;  
means for contacting the participant users;  
means for receiving a response from the participant users; and  
means for establishing a conference call between the participant users and the subscriber user based on the received responses.

42. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the means for detecting a conference call event comprises:

means for scanning a data structure for the conference call event.

43. (Original) The system of claim 42, wherein the data structure is a calendar application associated with the subscriber user.
44. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the conference call event is a trigger indicating a proposed conference call previously scheduled by the user.
45. (Original) The system of claim 44, wherein the proposed conference call identifies the participant users and the means for identifying participant users includes:
- means for collecting identifiers for the participant users from a first data structure corresponding to the conference call event; and
  - means for collecting contact information for the participant users from a second data structure based on the participant user identifiers.
46. (Original) The system of claim 45, wherein the first data structure is a calendar application and the second data structure is an address book listing at least the participant users and their corresponding contact information.
47. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the means for contacting the identified participant users includes:
- means for collecting contact information associated with the participant users; and

means for establishing a communication connection with the participant  
users using the contact information.

48. (Original) The system of claim 47, wherein the contact information comprises  
telephone numbers associated with participant users, and the means for  
establishing a communication connection includes:

means for dialing out to participant users using corresponding telephone  
numbers.

49. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the means for contacting the participant  
users includes means for calling the participant users using telephone numbers  
and the means for receiving a response from the participant users includes:

means for providing, for the participant users, an indication to the  
subscriber user reflecting whether a specific participant user  
answers the call.

50. (Original) The system of claim 49, wherein the means for providing an indication  
includes:

means for providing a no contact message to the subscriber user when  
the participant user does not answer the call.

51. (Original) The system of claim 50, further including:

means for providing a no conference call message to the subscriber user  
when none of the participant users answer their respective call.

52. (Original) The system of claim 49, wherein the means for providing an indication  
includes:

means for providing an acceptance message to the subscriber user when  
a participant user answers the call.

53. (Original) The system of claim 52, wherein the means for providing the acceptance  
message includes:

means for determining whether a participant user accepts the call.

54. (Original) The system of claim 53, wherein the means for determining whether a  
participant user accepts the call includes:

means for performing a feedback process when a participant user  
declines the call.

55. (Original) The system of claim 54, wherein the means for performing a feedback  
process includes:



means for providing options for the participant user to decline the call,  
wherein the options include at least one of:  
allowing the participant user to record a message for subsequent play  
back to the subscriber user,  
declining the call without any further processing by the participant user;  
allowing the participant user to set an alternate telephone number for  
contacting the participant user, and  
allowing the participant user to set a period of time in which the participant  
user is to be contacted again.

56. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the means for establishing a conference  
call includes:

means for establishing communication connections between participant  
users and the subscriber user, such that the users may conduct a  
conference call.

57. (Original) The system of claim 41, further comprising:

means for detecting when one of the participant users terminates its  
contact during the conference call;  
means for providing a termination message to the subscriber user  
indicating that the one participant user has ended participation in  
the conference call.

58. (Original) The system of claim 41, further comprising:

means for recording audio information associated with participant user's  
participation during the conference call;

means for converting at least some of the audio information to text  
information; and

means for recording the text information in a transcript reflecting a textual  
temporal based representation of communications that have taken  
place between the users during the conference call.

59. (Original) The system of claim 58, further comprising:

means for storing a portion of the audio information that cannot be  
converted to text information as an audio file; and

means for inserting a pointer to the audio file in the transcript.

60. (Original) The system of claim 59, further comprising:

means for providing the transcript to the subscriber user.

61. (Original) The system of claim 59, wherein the means for providing the transcript  
comprises means for attaching the transcript to an e-mail addressed to the  
subscriber user.

62. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein means for contacting the participant users comprises:

means for determining, for participant users, whether a specific participant user has a preferred device registered with a service center; and  
means for contacting a participant user through a preferred device when the participant user has a registered preferred device.

63. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the means for detecting and means for identifying steps are performed by a digital companion server that provides services to the subscriber user, and wherein the means for contacting the participant users comprises:

means for generating, by the digital companion server, a first message that includes at least instructions for configuring the conference call and telephone numbers for the participant users; and  
means for providing the first message to a conference blasting server.

64. (Original) The system of claim 63, wherein the means for providing the first message comprises:

means for generating a second message by the conference blasting server based on the first message, wherein the second message

includes instructions for setting up the conference call and the  
telephone numbers; and  
means for providing the second message to a conference bridge.

65. (Original) The system of claim 64, wherein the means for providing the second message includes:

means for calling, by the conference bridge, the participant users using  
the telephone numbers included in the second message.

66. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the subscriber user configures the conference call event by scheduling the conference call in a calendar application for a predetermined time and adding the names of the participant users that the subscriber user intends to participate in the conference call.

67. (Original) The system of claim 66, comprising receiving input from the subscriber user to add the names of participant users from an address book to the calendar application, the input being received via a graphical user interface.

68. (Original) The system of claim 41, further comprising:

means for detecting when a first participant users was dropped from the  
conference call; and

means for determining whether the first participant user has a preferred device registered with a service center.

69. (Original) The system of claim 68, wherein when the first participant user has a registered preferred device,

means for attempting to contact the first participant user through the preferred device.

70. (Original) The system of claim 69, further comprising:

means for re-establishing the first user with the conference call based on a determination that the first user wishes to continue participation in the conference call.

71. (Original) The system of claim 68, further including

means for determining contact information associated with a device used by the first participant user to participate in the conference call when the first participant user does not have a registered preferred device; and

means for re-establishing the first user with the conference call using the contact information.

72. (Original) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

means for detecting when a first participant user has terminated participation in the conference call; and  
means for determining whether the first participant user voluntarily or involuntarily terminated participation in the conference call based on the type of device the first participant user was operating during participation in the conference call.

73. (Currently Amended) A server for providing a conference call, comprising:

means for detecting a conference call event previously configured by the subscriber user that indicates that a conference call should be established between a subscriber user and participant users;

means for identifying, without user intervention, the participant users associated with the conference call event;

means for collecting contact information for the participant users;

means for providing a message including the contact information to a conference server that is configured to instruct a bridge to establish a conference call between the users by calling the participant users using the contact information included in the message; and

means for receiving a response message from the conference server including information associated with the conference call and at least one participant user.

74. (Original) The system of claim 73, wherein the means for detecting a conference call event comprises:

means for scanning a calendar application to determine whether the subscriber user has scheduled a conference call.

75. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 73, wherein the means for identifying the participant users further comprises:

means for determining the participant users from the calendar application;

wherein the means for collecting contact information further comprises:

means for accessing an address book associated with the subscriber user for collecting the contact information for the participant users; and

wherein the means for providing a message further comprises:

means for generating the message using the collected contact information.

76. (Original) The system of claim 73, wherein the means for providing a message comprises:

means for generating the message using the collected contact information and instructions associated with a time for commencing a conference call previously scheduled by the subscribed user, wherein the message is used by the conference server to generate a second message for instructing the bridge to establish the conference call.

77. (Original) The system of claim 73, wherein the response message is provided by the bridge when attempting to establish communications with the participant users over a voice network.

78. (Original) The system of claim 73, wherein the response message reflects at least one of:

the least one participant user declining the call;  
the at least one participant user not answering the call;  
the at least one participant user accepting the call; and  
none of the participant users answering the call.

79. (Currently Amended) A system for participating in a conference call automatically established by at least one communication entity, the system comprising:

means for scheduling a conference call for a predetermined date using a calendar application, wherein the means for scheduling identifies,



without user intervention, participant users that are to participate in the conference call; and

means for receiving, on the predetermined date, an indication that a conference call has been configured in accordance with the scheduled conference call,

means for receiving a indication that at least one participant user has either joined or declined to join the conference call, and

means for receiving, during the conference call, an indication that another participant user has ended communications with the conference call when that participant user terminates a connection with a bridge that establishes the conference call in accordance with instructions provided by a server that executes the calendar application.

80. (Original) A conference bridge for providing a conference call, comprising:

means for receiving a message from a first server including instructions for establishing a conference call between participant users and a subscriber user that previously scheduled the conference call with a second server, wherein the second server automatically initiates configuration of the conference call based on the subscriber user's schedule by providing to the first server contact information for the participant users and the message includes the contact information;

means for calling the participant users using the contact information  
included in the message;

means for receiving a response from the participant users, wherein the  
responses reflect whether the participant user has answered,  
accepted, not answered, or declined to accept the call; and

means for establishing a conference call between the users based on the  
received responses.

81. (Currently Amended) A system for providing conference calls, comprising:

a first server for detecting a conference call event previously configured by  
a subscriber user and generating a first message based on the  
event, wherein the first message includes telephone numbers for a  
plurality of participant users identified by the first server;

a second server for receiving the first message from the first server and  
generating a second message based on the first message, wherein  
the second message includes instructions for configuring a  
conference call and the telephone numbers; and

a conference bridge for receiving the second message, extracting the  
telephone numbers from the second message, and calling the  
participant users using the telephone numbers, and establishing a  
conference call between the participant users and the subscriber  
user,

wherein the subscriber user accesses the first server to schedule  
conference calls for future dates and the first server, second server,  
and conference bridge automatically attempt to establish the  
conference calls when the future dates arrive.

82. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium including instructions  
for performing, when executed by a processor, a method for providing a  
conference call, comprising:

detecting a conference call event that was previously configured by a  
subscriber user;  
identifying, without user intervention, participant users associated with the  
conference call event;  
contacting the participant users;  
receiving responses from the participant users; and  
establishing a conference call between the participant users and the  
subscriber user based on the received responses.

83. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium including instructions  
for performing, when executed by a processor, a method for providing a  
conference call comprising:

detecting a conference call event previously configured by the subscriber user that indicates that a conference call should be established between a subscriber user and participant users;  
identifying, without user intervention, the participant users associated with the conference call event;  
collecting contact information for the participant users;  
providing a message including the contact information to a conference server that is configured to instruct a bridge to establish a conference call between the users by calling the participant users using the contact information included in the message; and  
receiving a response message from the conference server including information associated with the conference call and at least one participant user.

84. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium including instructions for performing, when executed by a processor, a method for participating in a conference call automatically established by at least one communication entity, the method comprising:

scheduling a conference call for a predetermined time using a calendar application, wherein scheduling includes identifying, without user intervention, participant users that are to participate in the conference call; and  
on the predetermined time:

receiving an indication that a conference call has been configured in accordance with the scheduled conference call, receiving a indication that at least one participant user has either joined or declined to join the conference call, and during the conference call, receiving an indication that another participant user has ended communications with the conference call when that participant user terminates a connection with a bridge that establishes the conference call in accordance with instructions provided by a server that executes the calendar application.

85. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium including instructions for performing, when executed by a processor, a method for providing a conference call, including:

receiving a message from a first server including instructions for establishing a conference call between participant users and a subscriber user that previously scheduled the conference call with a second server, wherein the second server automatically initiates configuration of the conference call based on the subscriber user's schedule by providing to the first server contact information for the participant users and the message includes the contact information; calling the participant users using the contact information included in the message;

receiving responses from the participant users, wherein the responses reflect whether the participant user has answered, accepted, not answered, or declined to accept the call; and  
establishing a conference call between the users based on the received responses.

86. (Original) A method for providing a conference call, comprising:

detecting a request to establish a conference call initiated by a subscriber user;  
identifying participant users identified in the request;  
contacting the participant users;  
receiving a response from the participant users; and  
establishing a conference call between the participant users and the subscriber user based on the received responses,  
wherein at least one of the contacting, receiving, and establishing steps is performed without user intervention.

87. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a conference call, the method performed by a server comprising:

detecting a conference call event configured by a subscriber user that indicates a conference call to be established between the subscriber user and participant users;

identifying, without user intervention, the participant users associated with  
the conference call event;

collecting contact information for the participant users;

providing a message including the contact information to a conference  
server that is configured to instruct a bridge to establish the  
conference call between the users by calling the participant users  
using the contact information included in the message; and  
receiving a response message from the conference server including  
information associated with the conference call and at least one  
participant user.

88. (Cancelled)

89. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a conference call, comprising:

receiving a message from a first server including instructions for  
establishing a conference call between participant users identified  
by the first server and a subscriber user that schedules the  
conference call with a second server, wherein the second server  
automatically initiates configuration of the conference call by  
providing to the first server contact information for the participant  
users and the message includes the contact information;

calling the participant users using the contact information included in the message;

receiving a response from the participant users, wherein the response reflects whether the participant user has answered, accepted, not answered, or declined to accept the call; and

establishing a conference call between the users based on the response received from the participant users.

90. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a conference call, comprising:

means for detecting a conference call event that is configured by a subscriber user;

means for identifying, without user intervention, participant users associated with the conference call event;

means for contacting the participant users;

means for receiving a response from the participant users; and

means for establishing a conference call between the participant users and the subscriber user based on the received responses,

wherein at least one of the means for contacting, means for receiving, and means for identifying perform their functions without user intervention.